

Mubarak delegates powers  
to vice president pg 2



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Friday, February 11, 2011

# THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English

Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

## National HIV Strategic Plan gets funding



Sharline Koolman-Wever

Professionals on all levels and from both private and public sectors are participating in a two days' workshop regarding a National Strategic Plan for the prevention and treatment of HIV. The ministry of public health under the leadership of Minister Richard Visser succeeded in organizing the workshop with the cooperation of PAHO (Pan American Health Organization).

Sharline Koolman-Wever, Public Health official, at the opening of the workshop emphasized the importance of obtaining a National Strategic Plan. She indicated that Aruba, or our Public Health system is responsible for implementing a project for which funding was received from the European Union. In order to utilize these funds we must know where we as a country want to go, and for this we need to design a National Strategic Plan. Minister Visser desires to have all stakeholders involved, all those working in the field of HIV, to contribute to the plan so we could achieve broad consensus. Every effort will be made to stem the development of HIV cases on Aruba.

Our public health system is receiving assistance from PAHO. They have already collected valuable information from the health department. Yesterday PAHO presented the results of an analysis of the situation.

Based on this information they will commence working on the input from all stakeholders in order to achieve a National Strategic Plan.

PAHO will be responsible for compiling the strategic plan.

In 2000 the Public Health Department attempted to introduce a PSN for HIV and solicited funding for this. However, it resulted that Aruba was too ambitious and had presented too many projects to be executed in 5 years. Koolman remarked that due to the lack of personnel and funds, only 50% of that first plan was executed. The situation today is different, she informed, as we now have the necessary funds obtained from the European Union. But, now we need a plan and that's what we are embarking upon today.

We need people with expertise to help chart the course we should take.

With respect to the data regarding the number of HIV cases on Aruba, the number has remained stable. In 2009 there were 12 new cases and in 2010 there were 16 cases.

Continued on page 3

## Hotel rooms study not necessary, says Juan David Yrausquin

Parliamentarian, Juan David Yrausquin, in response to a recent publication of the government regarding a research study to be conducted by the University of Central Florida (UCF), concurs with the need for such a study. However, the Parliamentarian questions one of the reasons cited for said study as reported in the news publication, which is to determine how many rooms we should have.

Yrausquin welcomes said research to produce a Master Plan for tourism, but, says he, it is not necessary to determine how many rooms we should have. In view of the numerous research already conducted on this matter and the plans already presented as a result of the past research. He makes reference to his party's own research dubbed "Arub'Ariba," and to an approved parliamentary motion. Said motion, which was a result of the myriad of research conducted on Aruba's tourism and rooms count, entailed the following:

1. implement a decree to establish a legal moratorium of rooms
2. within 6 months implement a decree as outlined in the government's manage-



Juan David Yrausquin

ment plan

3. do whatever is possible to eliminate commitments made regarding additional hotel rooms by the former government

All of this, he claims concurs with the studies conducted that we must now focus on quality and no longer on quantity of hotel rooms. Research conducted over the past 20 years has indicated that our economy experienced growth because of the increase of hotel rooms, which resulted in bringing more visitors to the island.

Continued on page 3

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**TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC**

## McAfee: Chinese hackers target oil companies

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Hackers from China have penetrated computer networks of global oil companies, stealing financial documents on bidding plans and other confidential information, a US computer security firm said yesterday.

"Starting in November 2009, coordinated covert and targeted cyberattacks have been conducted against global oil, energy, and petrochemical companies," the Santa Clara, California-based McAfee said in a report.

In addition to attacking company computers, the hackers struck "individuals and executives in Kazakhstan, Taiwan, Greece, and the United States to acquire proprietary and highly confidential information," McAfee said.

"Files of interest focused on operational oil and gas field

production systems and financial documents related to field exploration and bidding."

The industrial espionage charges are the latest leveled against hackers in China, which was accused in a report by the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission last year of waging massive attacks on US computer systems.

McAfee did not identify any of the companies targeted by the hackers. But it said all of the evidence pointed to the attackers being based in China.

"We have identified the tools, techniques, and network activities used in these continuing attacks -- which we have dubbed Night Dragon -- as originating primarily in China," McAfee said.

Hacking tools "widely available on the Chinese underground" were used to break into a company's intranet and obtain access to sensitive desktops and servers, it said.

"They proceeded to connect to other machines (targeting executives) and exfiltrating

email archives and other sensitive documents," McAfee said.

The computer security firm said "many actors" took part in the attacks but it had identified an individual in Heze City, Shandong Province, who provided the "crucial (command and control) infrastructure to the attackers."

"Although we don't believe this individual is the mastermind behind these attacks, it is likely this person is aware or has information that can help identify at least some of the individuals, groups, or organizations responsible for these intrusions," it said.

McAfee said "all of the identified data exfiltration activity occurred from Beijing-based IP addresses and operated inside the victim companies weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Beijing time."

This suggests, it said, "that the involved individuals were 'company men' working on a regular job, rather than freelance or unprofessional hackers."

## Colombian president angered as rebels kidnap two

BOGOTA, Colombia (AFP) - Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos lashed out at leftist FARC guerrillas yesterday over the abduction of two factory workers, a day after the rebels freed the first of five hostages they promised to release.

Santos said that he was tempted to cancel an order to stop military operations in southern Colombia, a condition guerrillas with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) say is necessary to release their hostages.

"It is totally unacceptable that the FARC on one hand is releasing hostages as an act of

generosity, and on the other is kidnapping more people," he said.

FARC on Wednesday freed Marcos Baquero, 33, the first of five hostages to be released by the guerrillas.

But the night before they allegedly abducted two workers from a cardboard factory in the El Tambo area of the southern department of Cauca.

FARC rebels have pledged to release a Colombian marine and another municipal council member on Friday near the town of Florencia in southeastern Colombia, and a police major and a soldier on Sunday in Ibaque in the center of the country.

## Mubarak delegates power to deputy

CAIRO, Egypt (AFP) - Egypt's embattled President Hosni Mubarak yesterday delegated power to his deputy and proposed constitutional reforms, but said the transition to end his 30-year-reign would last until September.

Hundreds of protesters took off their shoes and brandished them at the screen on which they had seen Mubarak's speech, a grave insult in Arab societies, and others chanted: "Down with Mubarak! Leave, leave!"

Others called for an immediate general strike and demanded of the army, which had deployed large numbers of troops and tanks around the protest: "Egyptian army, the choice is now, the regime or the people!"

Hopes had run high that Mubarak would step down immediately after the military leadership had announced hours earlier that it would step in to ensure the country's security and see that the people's

"legitimate" demands were met.

But by the end of his speech Mubarak remained the country's president.

"I have decided to delegate power to the vice president based on the constitution," a frail Mubarak said in a scratchy voice.

"I am conscious of the dangers of this crossroad... and this forces us to prioritise the higher interests of the nation."

He went on to take an apparent swipe at the United States and other countries that have pushed him to accelerate a transition to democracy, saying: "I have never bent to foreign diktats."

"I have always preserved peace and worked for Egypt and its stability."

The speech failed to appease protesters, who for the past two weeks have called for the end of Mubarak's regime in massive demonstrations that have rocked the most populous Arab country.

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## National HIV Strategic Plan gets funding

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This shows that HIV infections are continuing to occur, which indicates that we are not doing enough. We must change our strategy to reach the vulnerable groups to help them protect themselves against HIV. We need to start a more effective campaign.

The increase in cases centers on the 25 to 44 age group. These are those who must work and produce for our

country. This means that the cost for the care of this age group is enormous because of the fact that they most probably will live for many years. This will not be good for the island economically. For this reason it is important that we reach this group with an effective campaign to make them aware of the dangers of contracting HIV if they are not protected

## Hotel rooms study not necessary . . .

Continued from page 1



All of this, he claims concurs with the studies conducted that we must now focus on quality and no longer on quantity of hotel rooms. Research conducted over the past 20 years has indicated that our economy experienced growth because of the increase of hotel rooms, which resulted in bringing more visitors to the island. However, when you measure the economy against the size of our population, keeping inflation in view, we have not had economic growth after the 1990's, according to Yrausquin.

This, says the Parliamentarian, is reason why we must consider diversification of our economy to achieve real economic growth for every citizen. We have come to the realization that it is no longer necessary to expand on the number of hotel rooms like we did in the past 20 years.

Juan David Yrausquin, in his remarks reiterated that Parliament should put its emphasis on the consensus that already exists among them to

not expand on hotel rooms and to do everything possible to annul any agreements for additional rooms made by the previous administration.

It appears there is some confusion regarding this issue, in light of the government's decision to grant a permit for the construction of a hotel at the Fisherman's Huts. Yrausquin claims that the AVP body in Parliament never agreed to proceed with said permit. Furthermore, they had requested a second legal opinion to ascertain whether they could legally dissolve the permit issued to a Venezuelan group.

With respect to his remarks, Juan David Yrausquin submitted a petition to Parliament consisting of several questions to the Minister of Infrastructure to be addressed in a public meeting. He claims, said petition was not addressed in Parliament. CAD (Central Accountancy Bureau) and others were requested to do a research which Parliament would use to determine whether there should be a Parliamentary inquisition.

The government must take into consideration the wishes of parliament as expressed in different motions. He concluded that the government should instruct any organization charged with preparing a plan for the government that according to Parliament we have long achieved or surpassed our limit of necessary hotel rooms for Aruba.



**Pointers to Ponder**

**Tony A.D. Green** [www.people-self-development.com](http://www.people-self-development.com)

## Part II

Last issue I shared with you the two types of people who, if you let them, can drain every ounce of energy out of you and have you experience poor relationships. A good relationship is vital to your health and wellbeing. Other people are important in your life and it behooves us to have good relationship. This is why it is important that you know which types of people to have in your friendship circle, and which types to avoid. The two types we talked about in last issue were: the Narcissist and the Victim. For the sake of space, I will not repeat the information shared about them here. Please refer to the Feb.8th edition of the Morning News for that information.

Today, I want to give you the list of the other three types of persons who can drain your emotional energy.

**The first one I call:**

### 3. The Domineering Controller:

These are the people who obsessively try to control you and dictate how you're supposed to be and feel. They know exactly how everything should be and should go. They usually have an opinion about everything. They'll control you by invalidating your emotions if your emotions or feelings don't fit into their mold. They often start sentences with "You know what you need?" and then proceed to tell you. You end up feeling dominated, demeaned or put down. And, they do this so fast and with such efficiency that you get run over by it before you even get a chance to think.

**How to Protect Yourself:** The secret to success with this type of person is never try and control a domineering controller. You need to be healthily assertive, but don't tell them what to do. You can say, "I value your advice but really need to work through this myself." Be confident but don't play the victim. You must be firm and let them know firmly, but assertively, and with kindness that you will move ahead at your own pace and in your own manner. You must take control!

You don't want to ruin any relationship by being nasty or ugly, but you don't want any relationship to ruin you either. Remember, everyone, no matter how difficult they are deserves kindness and courtesy. Be kind, be courteous, but at the same time stay in control and don't let yourself be put down and dominated by the dominating controller

**This fourth type I call:**

### 4. The Babblers, or the Talker

Generally, the babbler isn't interested in your feelings. They are primarily concerned with themselves. They will talk and talk and talk, and you will wait and wait for an opening to get a word in edgewise but it never comes. It is as if they cannot stop babbling. There are virtually no commas in their speech, and certainly no full stops (periods). Often times they might physically move in so close to you that they're practically breathing on you. When you politely edge backwards, they step closer. And, if you're like me, you want to push them back (I have never, though, and certainly don't advocate that you do).

**How to Protect Yourself:** Moving away or any other physical gesture from you will not help, simply because they don't respond to nonverbal cues. You must speak up and interrupt them, as hard as that is to do. You need to listen for a few minutes. Then politely say, "I hate to interrupt, but please excuse me I have to talk to these other people (assuming that there are others nearby)... or get to an appointment... or go to the bathroom." This is a much more constructive tactic than, "Keep quiet, you're driving me crazy!" If this is a family member, politely say, "I'd love if you allowed me some time to talk too so I can add to the conversation." If you say this neutrally, it can better be heard. Whatever you say, don't offend them, don't get angry or show anger, and don't be rude. Remember, you will have to speak up, because they will not 'read' your physical cues.

**The last type is those I call:**

### 5. The Dramatist

The dramatists are the people with what I call the "gift" for exaggerating small incidents into off-the-chart dramas. Like the lady who walked into my office the week after she didn't show up for a scheduled appointment and said ... "the reason I didn't come last week is because I got the flu and I almost died." A next time she told the secretary... "I had a flat tire and had to change the tire twice before I got it on right." I had an employee who worked directly under me, who would often come to my office and report... "Mr. Green, all of the students are in the cooking lab making a mess of the place, you'd better go down there and do something." Or, did you know that the classroom is completely under water and everything is getting ruined in there?" To which I would always respond very calmly and unalarmed... "I'll see to it shortly." As much as I know that that sort of response only got him confused, because he expected to see me jump to my feet and run to the scene. Instead, I would only assure him that I would take care of it shortly. You see, I discovered that he dramatized almost everything, and that if I wasn't careful he would drain my energy. I learned that his reports were almost always dramatized; fact is there were about 6 (not all 225) students in the area, and that there was a minor leak in the classroom ceiling, but nothing like a flood.

**How to Protect Yourself:** The dramatist doesn't get mileage out of equanimity. Stay calm. Take a few deep breaths. This will help you not get caught up in the histrionics. Set kind but firm limits. Say, for example, "You must be here on time to keep your appointment. I'm sorry for all your mishaps, but I will not postpone other clients for you." Or, say... I am sure the situation needs my attention and I will attend to it very shortly.

*Continued on page 4*





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Continued from page 3

When their behavior persists you must say to him/her..."I cannot tolerate your tardiness, or your inefficiency, or...whatever it is that he/she is doing. Don't ever play into his/her histrionics! Always remain in control of your own emotions.

To have healthy relationships, and to decrease your emotional drain, you need to take an inventory of the people around you. When you do, you will recognize those who increase your energy level, and those who just drain your emotions. Once you have singled them out,

decide to spend your time with those who give you strength and lift you up. And, determine to set limits with those who drain your energy and pull you down. This will definitely improve the quality of your life. Trust God to give you the wisdom to know who your "strength" people are and who your "destructive" people are, and make Him your best friend.

If this article was helpful, I'd love to hear from you. Tell me if I helped you, by writing to: [themorningnewsaruba@gmail.com](mailto:themorningnewsaruba@gmail.com)

## Rome booked out for John Paul II beatification

ROME, Italy (AFP) – More than two million pilgrims are expected to throng the streets of Rome for the beatification ceremony of John Paul II on May 1, leaving travel agencies desperate for accommodation and hotel prices soaring.

The Vatican expects as many as two and a half million people to flock to the ceremony, according to Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

The ceremony will be led



by Pope Benedict XVI in St Peter's Square, where John Paul II's funeral took place only six years ago.

## Mubarak's 29-year reign

CAIRO, Egypt (AFP) - Key events in Egypt during the rule of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

- October 1981: Mubarak succeeds the assassinated leader Anwar Sadat, who had made him vice president.

The following month, he is approved as president in a referendum; the regime subsequently holds regular elections, but not until 2005 are rival candidates allowed to challenge him.

- May 1989: Egypt readmitted to the Arab League, from which it had been suspended over the 1979 peace treaty Sadat signed with Israel.

- June 1995: Mubarak escapes an assassination attempt in Addis Ababa, claimed by Egypt's main armed fundamentalist group, Jamaa Islamiya. It is the first of at least six attempts on his life.

- November 1997: Jamaa Islamiya kills 68, including 58 foreign tourists, at a popular site in Luxor.

- September 1999: Mubarak lightly wounded in an assassination attempt in Port Said.

- December 1999: Egypt agrees to sell its natural gas to Israel, and also to the Palestinians.

- September 2003: Mubarak calls for greater democracy and freedom of political assembly, but his son Gamal appears to be being groomed to succeed him.

- October 2004: Attacks in the Sinai resort of Taba and nearby kill 34 people, mostly Israelis. The strike is claimed by an Al-Qaeda-linked group.

The authorities allow the creation of a new political party, Al-Ghad..

- February 2005: Egypt decides to send an ambassador to Israel, a post that has remained vacant since the beginning of a Palestinian uprising in 2000.

Under US pressure, Mubarak orders parliament to amend Egypt's constitution to allow multi-candidate presidential



Hosni Mubarak

elections.

- July 2005: Triple bomb attacks in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh kill at least 68, including foreigners.

- September 2005: Mubarak sworn in for a fifth term after being re-elected in the first multi-candidate poll.

- Under an agreement with Israel, Egypt says it will deploy soldiers along the southern border of the Palestinian Gaza Strip.

- June 2009: US President Barack Obama visits Cairo and makes a speech calling for a "new beginning" in relations between the United States and the Muslim world.

- February 2010: Mohamed ElBaradei, a former top United Nations diplomat, returns to Egypt and announces he may

contest the Egyptian presidency.

- November 2010: Mubarak's party wins 420 of 508 seats in parliamentary polls, as the opposition cries foul and monitors say the vote was marred by fraud.

- January 25, 2011: Major nationwide protests begin calling for Mubarak's ouster. An estimated 300 people killed and around 3,000 injured in clashes with police over the next few days.

- January 29, 2011: Mubarak announces his first ever vice president, Omar Suleiman, and a new prime minister, Ahmed Shafiq.

- February 1, 2011: Mubarak announces that he will not stand for re-election in September and will work to prepare for an orderly transition, eliciting jeers from demonstrators in the street who protest for another 10 days.

- February 6, 2011: The regime holds landmark talks with opposition groups, including the Muslim Brotherhood, which says proposed reforms do not go far enough.

- February 10, 2011: Mubarak in a televised speech does not step down as president but says he is handing over powers to his deputy and former intelligence chief Omar Suleiman.



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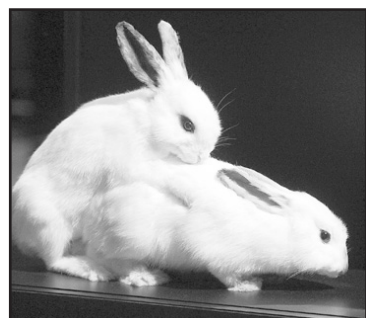
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## Sci-Tech

# Museum goes wild with animal sex show



**a taxidermy exhibit featuring two rabbits having intercourse**

LONDON (AFP) – A museum in London is throwing caution to the wind for an exhibition on sex in the animal kingdom complete with copulating chimps and randy rabbits -- just in time for Valentine's Day.

"Sexual Nature" at the Natural History Museum explores the diverse ways in which animals have evolved to procreate, such as a snail's love darts, the detachable penis of the paper nautilus, or the outsized testes of the promiscuous chimp.

The exhibition, which opens today, also looks at human sexual behaviour in the context of other species.

"We ask visitors to leave their preconceptions at the door," curator Tate Greenhalgh told AFP.

"This exhibition is about the relationship between sex and evolution and the bizarre, surprising adaptations that

animals have evolved to procreate as much as possible.

"We ask people to be open-minded when looking at potentially surprising, maybe shocking things that animals do that would be outlawed in human society."

Visitors are greeted by a video projection of bonobo apes, some of our closest relatives, having sex -- sometimes with a baby clinging on the back, or midway through munching a pineapple.

"We can't judge other animals by our moral codes, just as we don't base our rules on their behaviour," museum-goers are told.

The exhibition, which because of its content is aimed at the over-16s, shows the seduction techniques deployed by different species and the thorny issues of sexual selection and male-female power battles.

Stuffed rabbits and foxes in the act are on show, while penis bones are also displayed, from the giant-sized walrus example to the hair's breadth penis bone of a bat.

The human section features a magnetic poetry wall where people can stick romantic words together in an attempt to conjure up a winning chat-up line.

"We're affected by the same evolutionary principles: sexual selection, how we attract mates and find them," Greenhalgh said.

# Google Boosts Log-in Protection for Its

Google will offer its hundreds of millions of users the option of adding a second verification step when signing into their accounts, to complement the existing password-only authentication mechanism.

Users who choose to add this second step to their Google log-in process would reduce the likelihood of having their accounts hijacked if their password is stolen.

Google will begin to roll out the option for two-step verification on Thursday, and it will take a few days for it to be available to all users.

Google estimates that activating this feature could take up to 15 minutes. Once set up, it inevitably makes the log-in process longer, because in addition to the password, users will have to also enter a one-time code.

Users get the option of having Google generate the code and send it to them via

a phone call or a text message. Or they can opt to generate the code themselves using a mobile application for Android, BlackBerry and iPhone devices.

Passwords are vulnerable in a variety of ways. Malicious hackers can sniff them over unprotected Wi-Fi networks, or trick users into revealing them through phishing scams. Malware can also capture and transmit log-in data.

Compounding the problem is the common practice of using the same password for multiple online services, opening themselves up for a broad hijacking of accounts.

Even if a password is specific to, in this case, a Google account, it holds the key to multiple Google services, including Gmail, Docs, Picasa and many others that contain personal and likely sensitive information that can be used for identity theft and financial fraud.

# Activision Blizzard ends 'Guitar Hero' gig



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) – Activision Blizzard said it is bringing the curtain down on a "Guitar Hero" music videogame franchise that lets players pretend to be rock stars.

"Due to continued declines in the music genre, the company will disband Activision Publishing's 'Guitar Hero' business unit and discontinue development of (the game) for 2011," Activision said while announcing its latest quarterly fiscal results.

Activision will also close

the case on development of a "True Crime: Hong Kong" shooter videogame, saying the decisions were based on a desire to "focus on the greatest opportunities in interactive entertainment."

Activision said it remained devoted to upcoming titles for the blockbuster "Call of Duty" battle franchise.

The company also planned to continue investing in online games and digital distribution, which have been gaining pop-

ularity worldwide.

"Call of Duty: Black Ops" has racked up more than a billion dollars in sales worldwide since its release in November, according to Activision.


"World of Warcraft: Cataclysm" sold more than 3.3 million copies in the 24 hours after its release in December to become the fastest-selling personal computer game in history.

"Guitar Hero," on the other hand, has seen its glory fade. The game crafted by Harmonix Music Systems studio was a rage after its world debut in 2005.

Players using plastic controllers shaped like guitars were challenged to stay in tune with music.

Players scored points by hitting different colored buttons on guitar necks and strumming in time with markers streaming on screen. Activision published "Guitar Hero" titles for about five years.





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## BRIEFS:

### Turmeric could help rebuild brain after stroke:

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Studies on animals suggest that a new hybrid drug, made in part from the chemical in the yellow spice turmeric, could help regenerate brain cells after a stroke, according to US researchers.

The molecular compound is made with curcumin, a natural yellow pigment that originates from a perennial herb called *Curcuma longa* and is popular in South Asian and Middle Eastern foods, particularly curries.

Human trials on the drug, which works by restoring pathways that feed neurons, could begin soon, the new drug does not attack clots, but if administered to rabbits in one hour, which translates to three hours in human time, it "reduced stroke-caused 'motor deficits' -- problems of muscle and movement control," the study said.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Iceland says probing dioxin scare:

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AFP) – Iceland's Food and Veterinary Authority said meat with high levels of dioxin had been put on the market, including outside of Iceland, and that it had launched an investigation into the matter.

The authority stressed "it is considered very unlikely that the meat and milk that potentially had high levels of dioxin and were sold to the public will have serious health effects on people."

In a separate statement, the authority announced a recall of three different kinds of frozen beef due to possible dioxin contamination.

A livestock plant has also said it was recalling frozen lamb due to possible dioxin contamination.

\*\*\*\*\*

### FDA approves first MRI-safe pacemaker:

WASHINGTON (AFP) – The US Food and Drug Administration on approved the first pacemaker system -- produced by medical device giant Medtronic Inc. -- that can be used safely with MRI scanners.

Patients with pacemakers, which generate electrical impulses to treat irregular or stalled heart beats, have had to forgo MRI scans because of the risk of the machines' radiowaves interfering with the heart devices.

The function reduces or eliminates potential MRI hazards.

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## Health & Living

### Diet soda, salt boost stroke risk: studies

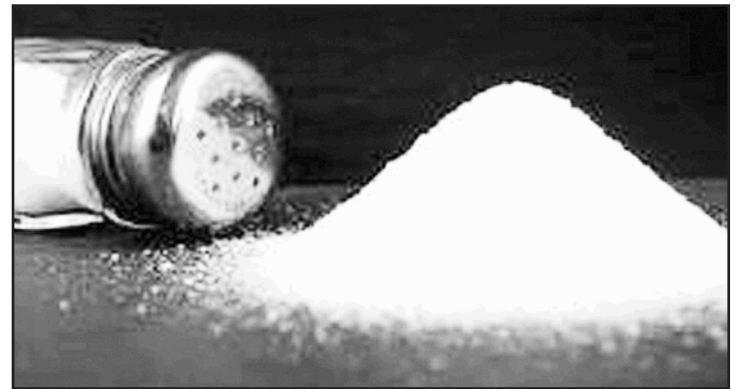
WASHINGTON (AFP) – A pair of studies released suggest that diet soda drinkers face a higher risk of heart attack and stroke than people who do not drink any soda, and that salty food boosts stroke risks, too.

The soda study examined 2,564 people in Manhattan and found that those who reported consuming diet fizzy drinks daily had a 61 percent higher risk of vascular events than people who said they did not drink any soda at all.

When researchers factored in allowances for metabolic syndrome, peripheral vascular disease and heart disease history, the risk was 48 percent higher, said the research presented at the American Stroke Association's International Stroke Conference.

"If our results are confirmed with future studies, then it would suggest that diet soda may not be the optimal substitute for sugar-sweetened beverages," said lead study author Hannah Gardener at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

A second study looked at



2,657 participants in the same area and found that high salt intake was linked to a dramatically increased risk of ischemic strokes, in which a blockage cuts blood flow to the brain.

People who reported eating more than 4,000 milligrams of sodium daily -- the amount contained in four large orders of french fries in the United States -- faced twice the risk of stroke as people who consumed less than 1,500 milligrams per day.

The average American consumes about 3,000 milligrams of salt per day, according to the study, though previous research has said it could be as

high as 4,000 milligrams per day.

"Stroke risk, independent of hypertension, increased 16 percent for every 500 milligrams of sodium consumed a day," allowing for adjustments for age, sex, ethnicity, education, alcohol use, exercise, daily caloric intake, smoking status, diabetes, high cholesterol, high blood pressure and previous heart disease, it said.

Current dietary guidelines in the United States urge people to consume less than 2,300 milligrams of sodium per day, or about a teaspoon of salt. The American Heart Association recommends less than 1,500 milligrams per day.

### Surgery in the womb works best for spinal defect



**This undated graphic, shows a baby with part of the spinal cord and spinal nerves, protruding through an opening in the back and being exposed to the amniotic fluid.**

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Surgery to repair a birth defect known as spina bifida is best done in the womb rather than after the baby is born, the results of an eight-year US trial released suggest.

The method was so successful in boosting babies' health and mobility that the trial was halted early, said the findings published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Spina bifida is a disorder of the central nervous system that occurs when the spinal cord is partially exposed, protruding on the baby's back.

Children may be paralyzed or may need braces in order to walk, and they may also experience loss of bladder and bowel function.

Many of the babies who have a severe form, known as myelomeningocele, also have a brain stem defect that causes a buildup of spinal fluid in the brain and requires a permanent shunt to drain it.

Typically doctors wait until after the child is born to do surgery. But prenatal surgery can be done at up to 26 weeks gestation, with doctors performing a sort of early Cesarean section to lift the uterus out of the woman's body.

With both mom and fetus under general anesthesia, the uterus is cut open, and an obstetrician positions the fetus's back to the opening so surgeons can stitch it up while the fetus stays inside the uterus.

By operating before the child is born, doctors saw fewer buildups of brain fluid, better motor skills and greater likelihood that the children would eventually be able to walk without braces.

"The damage to the spinal cord and nerves is progressive during pregnancy, so there's a rationale for performing the repair by the 26th week of gesta-

tion, rather than after birth," said study co-author Leslie Sutton of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Children were evaluated at one year of age and again at age two and a half. At 12 months, just 39.7 percent of the prenatal surgery group needed a shunt compared to 82.5 percent in the postnatal group.

At 30 months of age, children who had the surgery in the womb performed better in mental development and motor skills, with 41.9 percent able to walk without crutches or braces compared to 20.9 percent in the postnatal group.

However, doctors noted that the procedure carried heavy risks, including premature birth, and did not work for all patients.

Two fetuses died in the prenatal surgery group -- one in the womb and one after being born very prematurely at 25 weeks.

Mothers who underwent the procedure would be forced to have any future deliveries by C-section to avoid uterine rupture.

The study also noted that the initial location of the spinal malformation had an important impact on the children's ability to walk, regardless of when they had the surgery.



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# 'till you drop!





## Cozy Carambola makes an excellent and elegant choice for Valentine's Day



**A charming place for breakfast and lunch too**

Many will remember the congenial presence of Martin Haselhoeft of Ventanas Del Mar; it was his smiling countenance that always made their patrons feel so wel-

come. Well, Martin has an even broader smile on his face as he greets costumers to his own restaurant, the recently opened Carambola in the Paradise Beach Villas Re-

sort.

Martin has brought his vast experience with wine and fine food to his dream realized- his own eatery with an elegant and diverse menu of enormous appeal. Equally attractive is the ambiance of this stylish duplex restaurant, which also sports an outdoor terrace. Carambola is offering a very affordable four-course gourmet meal for Valentine's Day, accompanied by a champagne toast per couple, which makes it an ideal choice for that special dinner dedicated to romance.

The chef has devised a unique amuse-bouche called "Lover's Delight" followed by a choice of Creamy Oyster Chowder or seafood and veggie tempura salad (yum!) and



**Carambola exterior**

two variations of surf & turf for a main course. Be immersed in divine decadence by choosing Chocolate Fondant Cake with Ice Cream for dessert, or salve your conscience with some healthy fresh strawberries and whipped cream.

Carambola also sports some very attractive vegetarian dishes on their menu such as their signature Peanut Soup and their house specialty, Caribbean Crab Chowder, served in individual bowls of fresh, crusty bread, is famous.

Their utterly indulgent Valentine's Day repast is only \$45 per person, including the aforementioned complimentary champagne toast; a most excellent value for a beautifully presented gourmet meal in charming surroundings. Reservations can be made by calling 587-6695. e-mail: [info@carambola-aruba.com](mailto:info@carambola-aruba.com)

Carambola is also open daily for breakfast and lunch.

by Rosalie Klein



**Scallops Carambola**



**Peanut soup**





# Carambola

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## CALVIN and HOBBS



## CROSSWORD

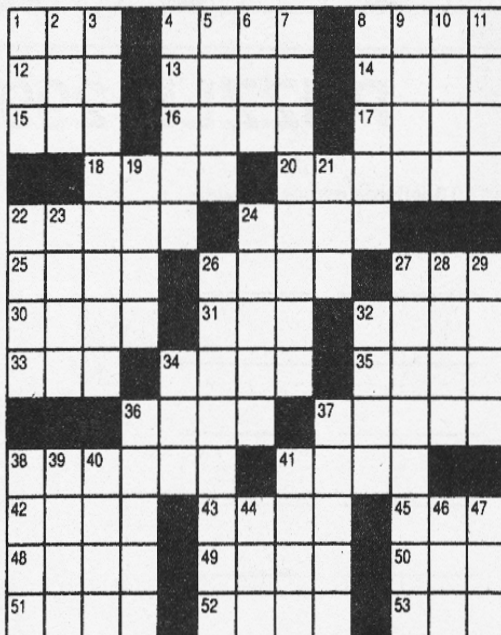


## CROSSWORD

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www.themorningnewsaruba.com

## ACROSS

1. Bandleader Calloway
4. Let fall
8. Not in danger
12. Chicken \_\_\_\_ king: 2 wds.
13. Went by train
14. "Un Bel Di," e.g.
15. \_\_\_\_ peeve
16. Tarzan's friends
17. Duct opening
18. Put up with



20. Tire features
22. Thither
24. Black-eyed \_\_\_\_
25. Rent
26. Left side asea
27. Diffident
30. Caesar's fateful date
31. Falsehood
32. Sandal, e.g.
33. Sparks or Beatty
34. Crew member
35. Mama's mate
36. Catcher's wear
37. Anon
38. Assimilate
41. Actor's quest
42. Object of devotion
43. Biblical twin
45. Go wrong
48. Ash Wednesday's time
49. Tear asunder
50. "Flying Down to \_\_\_\_"
51. Runs behind
52. Stage decors
53. 007, e.g.

## DOWN

1. Billed hat
2. Dark brew
3. Assailed
4. Male duck

5. Use a lasso
6. \_\_\_\_ to the West Wind
7. Bothered
8. Rescues
9. Neck of the woods
10. Discover
11. Has a snack
19. Greek war god
21. "King \_\_\_\_" (George Segal film)
22. Skinny
23. Animal pelt
24. West \_\_\_\_
26. Trays
27. Reduces to pieces
28. Bob of comedy
29. "My Favorite \_\_\_\_" (O'Toole film)
32. Box cautiously
34. Towel pronoun
36. Thaws
37. Praises
38. Type of pickle
39. Notion
40. TV's "The \_\_\_\_ Show"
41. Breathe hard
44. Get the point
46. Actor Taylor
47. Mr. Rogers

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Care Center  
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Important  
Telephone  
Numbers

## HOSPITAL

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## EMERGENCY

Telephone 911

## POLICE HDQS

Telephone 100

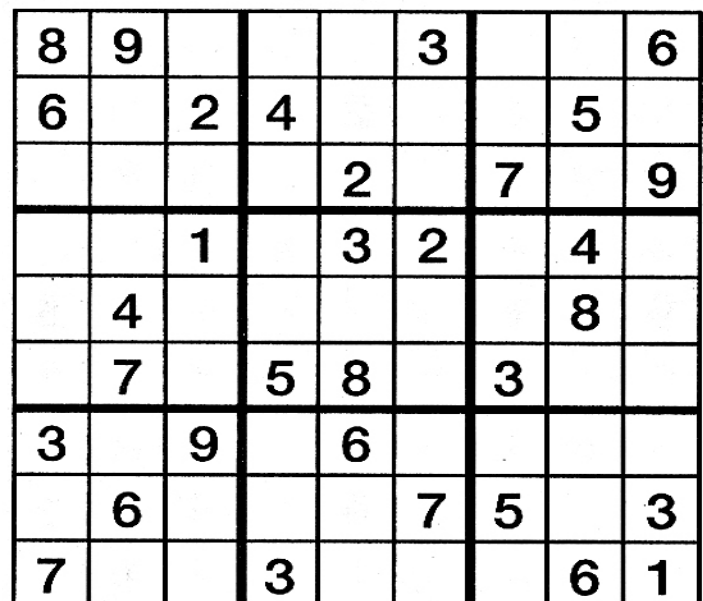
## TAXI

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## Sudoku



## SOLUTION

1	9	8	5	6	3	4	2	7
3	6	5	7	4	2	8	9	1
4	7	2	1	9	8	6	5	3
2	1	3	4	8	9	5	7	6
9	8	6	9	1	7	3	4	2
7	4	9	2	3	6	1	8	5
6	3	7	8	2	9	5	1	4
8	5	1	6	7	4	2	3	9
9	2	4	3	5	1	7	6	8

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9





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## Finance

### BRIEFS:

#### Global stock market operators gather forces:

FRANKFURT, Germany (AFP) – Merger mania gripped financial markets as the London and Toronto stock exchanges announced a tie-up and Deutsche Boerse and NYSE Euronext envisioned the world's largest bourse.

Equity markets have bounced back from the nightmare slump of 2008 as the financial crisis pushed the global economy into recession and the two sets of mergers appeared set to capitalise on an advance most expect to continue this year. The companies emphasised they were holding "advanced discussions" but the deal had not been finalised.

=====

#### Govt strikes deal on bank pay, bonuses and lending:

LONDON, England (AFP) – The government said it had struck a deal with the major banks on bonus pay and overall lending, as it seeks to curb executive excess and strengthen a fragile economic recovery.

Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne said total bonuses paid to British-based staff of the four biggest banks will be lower than last year as part of the deal, brokered after weeks of talks with the Conservative-led coalition.

The country's top five banks -- Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds Banking Group (LBG), Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) and Santander UK -- have agreed to ramp up total lending to £190 billion, including £76 billion to small firms, he announced.

=====

#### Fed's Bernanke tackles congressional critics:

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke fended off criticism that he is ignoring the risk of rising prices, as he faced a hostile Republican-controlled panel in Congress.

Bernanke -- who was appointed by Republican president George W. Bush -- sparred with the committee's Republican members, who warned of the risks from pumping hundreds of billions of dollars into the economy to prop up growth and help reduce unemployment. "My concern is that the cost of the Fed's current monetary policy... will come to outweigh the perceived benefits," said newly installed committee chairman, Republican Paul Ryan.

Flexing his new political muscle, Ryan said there were emerging price pressures and potential economic bubbles, as he challenged Bernanke to respond.

=====

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## PetroChina to invest \$5.4 billion in Canada gas

MONTREAL, Canada (AFP) – Chinese oil giant PetroChina will invest 5.4 billion dollars to acquire a 50 percent stake in a shale gas project developed in Canada by Encana, North America's top gas producer, the Canadian group said.

Under the deal, PetroChina and Encana would jointly develop the Cutback Ridge fields in British Columbia and Alberta, a 635,000 acre spread with current daily production of 255 million cubic feet of natural gas equivalent (7.22 million cubic meters).

Encana said the fields, in which PetroChina will have a 50-percent interest if the deal goes through, have proved reserves of about one trillion cubic feet (28.3 billion cubic meters) of natural gas equivalent.

Encana CEO Randy Eresman called the agreement a

## Deloitte: tablets, smartphones to outsell PCs

LYON, France (AFP) – Sales of tablets and smartphones will outnumber personal computers this year as consumers begin using a wider variety of devices to access the Internet, according to a study by the Deloitte consulting firm.

It said sales of smartphones and tablet computers would come to 425 million, well above sales of 390 million PCs.

Tablets are expected to rack up 50 million sales and smartphones 375 million.

Deloitte said the PC era is far from over as they will remain the workhorse computing platform.

It said it expects at least two distinct chip architectures to emerge and at least five different operating systems with more than five percent market share.

Deloitte said it also expects 2011 to be a breakthrough year for tablets in the workplace, with more than 25 percent of sales in 2011 going to companies.

Software to allow tablets



"major milestone" in the Canadian company's developing relationship with PetroChina.

He said the investment would allow Cutback Ridge to be developed at an accelerated pace.

The deal has to be approved by Canadian and Chinese regulatory authorities, and aspects of the agreement still have to be negotiated, the company said.

Encana specializes in the exploitation of unconventional

gas deposits in Canada and the United States.

In presenting its third quarter results in October, the company announced a return to profitability with net earnings of 569 million dollars.

PetroChina has made major investments in Canadian natural resources before, having taken a 1.7 billion dollar stake in 2009 in two projects to exploit oil sands with the Canadian company Athabasca Oil Sands.

The markets reacted with skepticism to the joint venture. In Toronto and New York, Encana shares were down 1.91 percent to \$30.83 in after-hours trading. PetroChina dropped 3.69 percent to \$135.66 in New York trading.

## Air France-KLM picks up, cautions on political tensions



At the same time, rising political tensions in several North African destinations -- Tunisia, Egypt, Ivory Coast -- would hit earnings in the fourth quarter, it said.

PARIS, France (AFP) – Air France-KLM said it did much better in its third quarter, reducing losses, but cautioned that recent bad weather and now political tensions in Africa were a concern.

It said that for the three months to December it incurred a net loss of 46 million euros, compared with a year-earlier loss of 295 million euros.

It had an operating profit of 81 million euros (\$105 million) after an operating loss of 245 million euros, while sales jumped 13.9 percent from a year earlier to 5.9 billion euros.

The airline said its third quarter was marked by air traffic control stoppages in France and record snowfalls in North America adding to the problems.

Accordingly, it said it continued to expect a positive operating result for its fourth quarter to March 2011 but this was likely to be below the 300 million euros estimate given in November.

The company insisted that despite the problems, it was making "considerable progress" after posting a record net loss of 1.28 billion euros in its year to March 2010.

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer





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## Fashion world feverish over royal wedding dress

LONDON, England (AFP) — The fashion world is desperate to know who Kate Middleton will pick to design her wedding dress when she marries Prince William in April -- and the palace's silence is only fuelling the feverish speculation.

"It would be better for the designer that people did not know who it was," said Sasha Wilkins, a fashion blogger known as "LibertyLondon-Girl." "Once they announce the name of the designer, that designer's life is going to be hell."

This was the case three decades ago when David and Elizabeth Emanuel were chosen to design the wedding dress of William's mother,

Princess Diana, when she married Prince Charles.

"They were stalked, literally," Wilkins says.

This time around, palace officials are giving nothing away, saying that Kate, 29, and her 28-year-old royal fiancée have both agreed to keep some of the details of their big day on April 29 a secret.

But in the absence of any official information, speculation is rife. A photograph of Kate's sister and mother coming out of the London shop of designer Bruce Oldfield last month was enough to cause the paparazzi to camp outside the boutique day and night in hope of spotting the bride-to-be

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## Nomination period for "Role Model for Youth" extended

In November of last year officers of the Colegio Arubano Key Club, the youth arm of Kiwanis of Aruba, announced they will conduct their second annual "Role Model for Youth" contest. Nominations were to be accepted until January 15, but it was announced Wednesday by Key Club President Aveline Fiaroa that circumstances have extended that period to February 23rd.

Ballot boxes have been placed at various venues where names of individuals can be submitted to be considered for the 2nd annual "Role Model for Youth" award. To qualify, it must be someone who has made substantial contributions to the community and inspired young islanders by example to strive to be the best they can be.

Certain rules for eligibility apply:

- The nominee must be a living person, so they may enjoy this recognition
- They must have dedicated at least five years of their time to the community, full or part-time
- A minimum of 25 years of age
- They can be well known or work diligently behind the scenes
- No politicians past or present
- They must be a full-time resident of Aruba
- They must have no ar-



Key Club board and Kiwanis rep Ebby Schwengle

rest record for the past ten years

The nominations will be vetted by a committee consisting of members of Kiwanis of Aruba and made public on March 2nd. SETAR NV, Aruba's telecommunications company and sponsor, will set up a website with portraits and qualifications of the nine candidates selected, and the public can cast their vote for their favorite candidate via SMS. Voting will close on a date to be set when they announce the candidates; voting is usually over a five-week period. There is a small administrative fee for each vote of approximately .50 Aruban cents. One can vote as often as they like. "Role Model of the Year 2010" will be announced during a gala

award event. For more information about the campaign and Key Club projects and membership visit their website: <http://www.keyclubaruba.org> or their page on Facebook.

Ballot boxes are located at: Bright Bakery in Noord and Piedra Plat, Antraco, van Dorp, Valero stations Santa Cruz and Palm Beach and at Amito store on Caya Betico Croes in Oranjestad.

Project Manager for "Role

Model of the Year 2010" is Mireille Jacobs, who can be contacted for ballots and information at [ballerina\\_20@hotmail.com](mailto:ballerina_20@hotmail.com); she is assisted by Illana Hoffer, Key Club P/R Manager, who can be contacted at [illanahoffer@hotmail.com](mailto:illanahoffer@hotmail.com)

Key Club members expressed that acknowledging those who dedicate their time to the quality of life for the Aruban community, particu-

larly in establishing sound values for island youth, is rewarding for both the recipient and those for whom they set an example. Role Model for Youth 2009 was Enrique Hermans of Seal Scouting Aruba; Key Club officers are sure there are numerous individuals worthy of this recognition and are proud to have established this tradition.

by Rosalie Klein

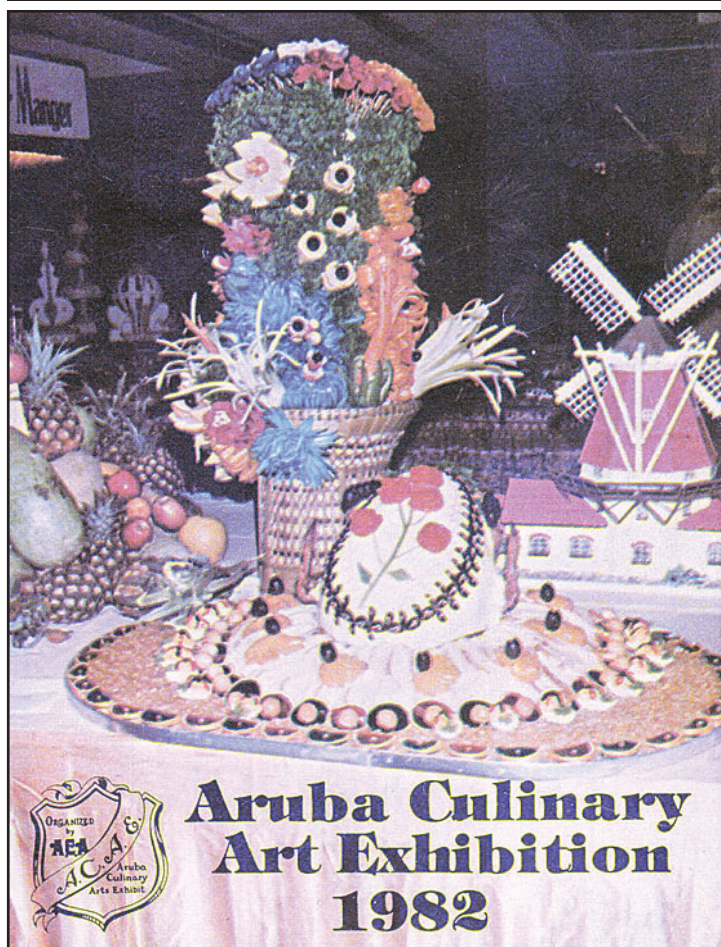
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# BACK THEN



In September 1982, the Aruba Culinary Association held a weekend-long exhibition of the culinary arts. More than 2500 local residents, visitors and professional restaurant and hotel associates attended the events at the Aruba Palm Beach Hotel (previously known as the Sheraton, now the Rui Palace) where they viewed "outstanding displays created by local chefs, cooks, bakers, waiters and bartenders."

Opening ceremonies were officiated by Acting Lt. Governor Remy Zaandam and the finale of individual awards presentation by Deputy of Tourism Daniel Leo.

Demonstrations given throughout the 3-day show included pasta making, figurines made from bread, centerpiece arrangements created with assortments of fruits and vegetables. Chef-owner of Buccaneer Restaurant, Joseph Munzehofer created a massive ice sculpture in the lobby of the hotel that has people gasping in admiration.

Local merchants provided tastings and samples of their products in elegant booth displays. A knock-out bartender's competition had several categories including cocktails, frozen drinks and tall drinks.

Albert Tromp, then at Bushiri Beach Hotel, now head man at the Radisson, and a member of the Bartenders Hall of Fame in the United States, won medals in 2 of the 3 categories as well as the Hubert Byam Memorial Cup named in honor of the famous and

beloved head bartender at The Carib, now the Radisson.

Among the judges for the food competition in 14 categories were the President of the World A.C.S. Canada, the Captain of the U.S. Culinary Olympic Team, an Executive Chef from the Bahamas, and an Executive Chef from Guayagil, Ecuador.

Chef Rudy Ratzenbock, then at Divi Divi Resort, now part-owner and Executive Chef at the popular Chalet Suisse restaurant, won the gold medal in the shellfish competition, bronze in both the paté and Sugar Works competitions. Peter Dorer, then part-owner of Buccaneer Restaurant and now owner of Promenade Restaurant won gold in meat category, silver in the canapes category and gold in the galatine category.

Throughout the 3-days, in addition to the competitions held indoor and out, there music, music, music: steel bands, famous limbo dancer Vincent Mardenborough, ding-a-lingy music box, folkloric dancers and mariachis.

Students from throughout the community were given special tours to view the work underway and the art exhibit from local artists of merit.

A sellout crowd attended the art exhibition gala dinner and dance award-giving finale.

**Persons interested in reading previous Back Then stories can do so online at [www.themorningnewsaruba.com](http://www.themorningnewsaruba.com)**

## Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest



Managers of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, report that sales are picking up nicely as the global economy begins to recover and those with a bit of disposal income are looking to invest in a sure thing. Gold Coast Directing Manager Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners are barely using the villas or town homes they purchase, but taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community; in this area, the

run Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very



excited about this project; the scope and amenities. We talked to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."

Input from frequent vacationers who dreamed of their own home in Aruba will



value of properties has only increased over time. It is minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy

eventually be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional pools decks, one of which has been open for a year, the other will be ready for the holidays 2010. They expect the clubhouse to be ready for

the community with a workout room and spectacular facilities by the end of 2011. It will also house a restaurant and mini-market.

Owners who purchased upon the groundbreaking only a few short years ago, are already enjoying a nearly 50% appreciation on their investment, particularly those taking advantage of the management association's rental service. There is always a great demand for Aruba and facilities such as those at Gold Coast, making it easy for some owners to earn their mortgage payments or others to see an immediate return on their investment.

The design of the structures is open, airy and spacious, fully deploying the island environment, with the finest quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options for clients, so buyers can individualize their homes. An elegant and chic standard package is available, or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast managers have inaugurated a number of in-house services and are now negotiating with Interval International to provide a huge international pool for investors to tap for renters either short or long term. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination will also be available. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, babysitting and catering services are also available for community members as well as airport pick-up and drop-off and pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can all be arranged through their home management department.

Visit their website: [www.goldcoastaruba.com](http://www.goldcoastaruba.com) for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.



## Netherlands look to surprise big teams



Peter Borren in action

COLOMBO (AFP) - The Netherlands are hoping luck, obscurity and good preparation will help them spring a surprise on bigger teams as they start their fourth World Cup this month.

"We come in a little bit under the radar and most big teams don't know too much about us. I think it can do us a favour, can cause an upset in our favour," skipper Peter Borren, 27, told reporters in Colombo.

Under the New-Zealand born Borren, the Dutch have won five of their last 12 one-day internationals, including one against Bangladesh last July. They also stunned hosts England in the 2009 World Twenty20.

"It's going to be a serious challenge for us to beat the Test-playing nations," said Borren. "But we have a fairly strong batting line-up that can

hopefully help us win a game or two and get us past the first round."

The Dutch, who trained in Dubai and India for the past few weeks, face India, Bangladesh, South Africa, England, the West Indies and Ireland in Group B.

Four teams from the preliminary group will advance to the quarter-finals.

The Netherlands, who competed in the World Cups of 1996, 2003 and 2007, have not beaten a Test-playing side in the tournament, but boast wins over Namibia and Scotland.

One of the mainstays of the batting will be big-hitting Essex all-rounder Ryan ten Doeschate, 30, who was snapped up by Indian Premier League side Kolkata Knight Riders for 150,000 dollars.

In 27 ODIs, Doeschate has

scored 1,234 runs at a formidable average of 68.55 with three hundreds and eight half-centuries. He has also taken 48 wickets.

"We need lots of luck," said Doeschate. "We have lost some seniors since the last tournament. The challenge for us this time is to focus and try and win every game."

Borren said the team will also bank on Tom Cooper, a South Australian cricketer who qualified to play for the Netherlands through his mother, who is Dutch.

Cooper made his Netherlands debut in June last year and scored three half-centuries in his first three games. In 10 matches, he averages 65.44 with one century and five 50s.

"We won one match each at the last two World Cups and we definitely want to improve that record," said Cooper.

Borren said the lack of matches against the Test nations was slowing his team's progress.

"We need more opportunities to play," he said. "It's not easy coming into tournaments like this to face the big teams. We can't change things, but the top sides should also play more often with us."

The Dutch will play two warm-up games against Kenya and Sri Lanka, before taking on England in their first World Cup match in Nagpur, India on February 22.

## Kubica out of intensive care

ROME, Italy (AFP) - Formula One driver Robert Kubica on Thursday left the intensive care unit at the Italian hospital where he is being treated after last weekend's horror crash.

The Lotus Renault driver is now in the accident and emergency unit at the Santa Corona hospital in Pietra Ligure as he

continues his recovery from the injuries suffered during the Rally of Andora in Savona.

After being airlifted to the hospital by helicopter on Sunday he underwent seven hours of surgery to try to save the use of his severely damaged right hand.

He will undergo a new op-

eration on Friday and is also awaiting surgery on his upper arm and foot.

During the Ronde di Andora Rally, he lost control and hit a guard rail which smashed the driver's door and bent the roll-bar.

He ended up in a church wall.



Bode Miller of the United States of America skis in the Men's Downhill Training during the Alpine FIS Ski World Championships on the Kandahar course on February 10, 2011 in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.



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## Cavs match US all-sport mark losing run

CLEVELAND, Ohio (AFP) - NBA doormat Cleveland matched the all-time record losing streak in American pro sport history as they suffered their 26th defeat in a row by falling 103-94 to Detroit.

Cavaliers coach Byron Scott kept the locker room closed for more than half an hour after the historic loss, then ripped the woeful squad for being unprepared for Wednesday's game.

"I'm mad as hell," Scott said. "I can deal with losing, especially when our guys play as hard as they have in the last couple weeks. But I find it very hard to deal with when guys don't come out ready to play."

"We've got all professional basketball players in there and at some point in time you have to have some pride in what you're doing."

"We didn't come out with that pride. We came out just going through the motions like we were going to win the game no matter what they did."

"Everybody has got to go home and take a good, hard look in the mirror."

The Cavaliers extended their NBA record losing streak, having broken the old mark of 24 they set over the 1981-82 and 1982-83 seasons, and equaled US sport's record run established by Grid Iron's 1976-77 Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The Buccaneers went 0-14 in their 1976 debut season and started 0-12 in the 1977 campaign before finally winning.

"Everybody is mad as hell," Cavaliers guard Daniel Gibson said. "To lose like that and for it to get to this point and still sometimes not see a sense of urgency, I can

see why it would push you to that point (of anger).

"What are you going to do? It's either do it or don't. The guys have to figure that out."

The Cavaliers, who began an eight-game homestand with the loss, will stand alone with the longest losing streak in American pro sport history if they go down at home Friday to the Los Angeles Clippers.

Sunday provides a solid chance for a victory as the Cavaliers host the Washington Wizards, who are 0-25 this season in road games, four shy of the NBA record for worst road record to start to a season.

"Something has to give when they play the Wizards," said two-time reigning NBA Most Valuable Player LeBron James, who left the Cavaliers last July for Miami to set off a downward spiral that has yet to end.

Cleveland, which began the season 7-9, are now 8-45. The Cavaliers have not won since beating the New York Knicks in over-time on December 18. They have dropped 36 of their past 37 games.

"We took a gigantic step backwards," Scott said. "We had no sense of urgency whatsoever and that kind of amazes me. When we've lost as many in a row as we lost and when you've been as close as we've been in the last four or five games and to be at home and come out the way we came out -- that amazes me."

No NBA club wants to become the one that allows Cleveland to end the drought.

"You don't want to be the team that loses to them," Detroit's Tracy McGrady said.



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## McIlroy whips up desert storm in Dubai



DUBAI (AFP) - Rory McIlroy made a storming start to the Dubai Desert Classic on Thursday, bagging eight birdies en route to a seven under 65 and a two stroke first round lead in the European Tour event.

Tiger Woods, meanwhile, came off a distinct third best to Lee Westwood and Martin Kaymer as the world's top three golfers shared each other's company, carding a 71, two strokes more than his two rivals.

Sergio Garcia continued his revival with a 67 to share

second place with Thomas Aiken of South Africa followed by six players tied for third on four under.

The 21-year-old McIlroy has made an impressive start to the season with top 10 finishes in his last four events, but he is desperate to secure another win to go with his breakthrough triumph here two years ago.

In perfect playing conditions at the Emirates Golf Club's Majlis Course, McIlroy, starting at the 10th, went out in four under 33 with birdies at 13, 15, 17 and 18.

When he picked up three more shots at the first, second and third he had managed seven birdies in nine holes and led the tournament by three shots.

McIlroy missed a four-footer for another birdie at the sixth and then three-putted on the par-three seventh for the only blemish on his card.

The Irishman hit an exquisite approach to five feet at the eighth and made the putt to get back to seven under and then completed a fine day's work with a regulation par at the ninth.

"It was a great way to start the tournament," said McIlroy, who refers to Dubai, the tournament he has played most in as a professional, his "home away from home".

Irregular off the tee and lacking conviction on the greens, Woods at least had the satisfaction of a morale-boosting finish.

He smacked a magnificent second to three feet over the lake at the par-five 18th and sunk the putt for an eagle.

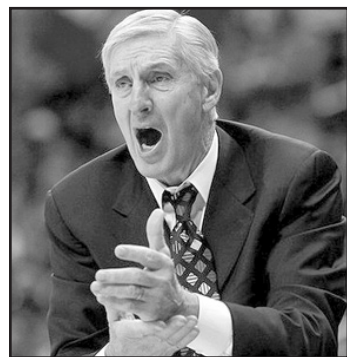
## After 23 years, Sloan calls time on Jazz - report

SALT LAKE CITY (AFP) - Jerry Sloan, the longest-tenured professional coach in American sports, will resign as coach of the NBA's Utah Jazz on Thursday, according to newspaper and television reports.

The Salt Lake Tribune and television station KSL reported Sloan will step down and the Jazz have called an afternoon news conference.

Sloan, who turns 69 next month, is in his 23rd season guiding the Jazz and ranks as the third-winningest coach in NBA history with a 1,221-803 record including a stint as coach of the Chicago Bulls.

Sloan, who played 11 NBA seasons with the Bulls



and Baltimore Bullets, has guided Utah to a 31-23 record this season. The Jazz stand 3 1/2 games behind Oklahoma City in the Northwest division and sixth in the Western Conference.

Despite Sloan's lengthy time on the bench, he has never won an NBA title, coming closest when the Jazz

lost to the Bulls in 1997 and 1998.

Sloan's years in the same job rank fourth on the all-time US sport list among managers and coaches of pro teams, trailing Connie Mack's 50 in baseball and 29-year NFL stints by Curly Lambeau at Green Bay and Tom Landry at Dallas.

Utah assistant coach Phil Johnson was also expected to resign with another assistant coach, Tyrone Corbin, expected to be named the interim coach, according to the Tribune.

The move came one day after Sloan met with Jazz general manager Kevin O'Connor after a 91-86 home loss to Chicago.

## Rangers ink star Hamilton to two-year deal

ARLINGTON (AFP) - Josh Hamilton, last year's American League Most Valuable Player, agreed to a two-year deal on Thursday that will keep him with the Texas Rangers, the Major League Baseball club announced.

The 29-year-old American outfielder and last year's World Series losers avoided a contract arbitration hearing that was set for Monday. The new deal means Hamilton can become a free agent following the 2012 season.

Three-time All-Star Hamilton, who made 3.25

million dollars last season, was asking for 12 million dollars for the next two years while the Rangers offered 8.7 million dollars.

Hamilton led Major League Baseball with a .359 batting average in 2010, blasting 32 home runs and driving in 100 runs despite broken ribs sidelining him for a month late in the season.

The Rangers reached the World Series for the first time in the club's half-century history, losing to the San Francisco Giants.



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# Real Madrid top rich list yet again

LONDON (AFP) - Real Madrid may be trailing their arch-rivals Barcelona in La Liga but financially they still have the edge on their old foes after topping the table of the world's 20 richest football clubs, compiled by accountants Deloitte.

Real finished top for the sixth straight year with Deloitte's table for the 2009/10 season saying the Spanish giants had revenues of 438.6 million euros.

Barcelona remained second on 398.1 million euros while Manchester United, one of seven English clubs in

the top 20, stayed third.

All the 20 clubs represented were from the "big five" European leagues, with Germany contributing four clubs, Italy four, Spain three and France two.

Real remained top despite a disappointing season, coming second in La Liga again and being knocked out of the Champions League in the last 16 by Lyon.

"In the coming years, particularly as UEFA's financial fair play rules take effect, Real Madrid's revenue prowess should, in



theory, translate into a competitive advantage on the pitch," said the report editor, Dan Jones.

Real's revenues were boosted by the staging of the 2010 Champions League final at their Santiago Bernabeu stadium.

UEFA's fair play rules are designed to force clubs taking part in European competitions to spend only what they earn rather than rely primarily on the patronage of wealthy owners such as Roman Abramovich (Chelsea) or Sheikh Mansour (Manchester City).

Deloitte Football Money League table 2009/10

1. Real Madrid: 438.6m euros
2. Barcelona: 398.1m euros
3. Man Utd: 349.8m euros
4. Bayern Munich: 323m euros
5. Arsenal: 274.1m euros
6. Chelsea: 255.9m euros
7. AC Milan: 235.8m euros
8. Liverpool: 225.3m euros
9. Inter Milan 224.8m euros
10. Juventus: 205m euros

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